

From the Editor

In May 2002 when the first issue of *NHK Broadcasting Studies* came out and was mailed to broadcasting specialists, universities, libraries, research institutes, and others in Japan and other countries, we received many letters of encouragement and appreciation. It was gratifying to relaunch the journal three years after publication of *Studies of Broadcasting* (1963–99) had ceased, and we are happy to be able to send the second issue of the new journal.

Terrestrial digital television broadcasting, which began in the United Kingdom and the United States in 1998 and subsequently in seven other countries, will begin in Japan as well from the end of 2003 despite the special challenges of consolidating analog channels. In the era of digital broadcasting featuring multimedia technology, multi-channel service, and interactive technology, the role of public broadcasting in promoting the public welfare and building a better society is greater than ever. The same goes for exchange of information and research achievements in the field of broadcasting studies, a role that *NHK Broadcasting Studies* can eminently play.

Reflecting the rapidly changing topics of the times, our second issue features three studies on the Internet and television and Internet journalism. Also included are a sequel to a study on the same theme included in the 2002 issue on annually rising sports broadcasting rights fees and a report on the state of radio and television broadcasting in Afghanistan as it begins to rebuild itself after decades of civil disruption and strife.

The issue of broadcasting and infringement of human rights is one faced by all countries in the world. One of the essays in this volume introduces an organization, unusual in the world, that was set up by broadcasters themselves to try to prevent such problems before they occur and seek redress on behalf of victims when they do.

Continuing our effort to include in the journal essays by overseas specialists in broadcasting studies, we are pleased to have the contribution of John Carey, adjunct professor at the Columbia University Graduate School of Business and managing director at Greystone Communications. We are grateful to Mr. Carey for helping to further enrich the content of this issue.

We look forward to your response to this issue as well, especially to whatever comments, criticisms, as well as suggestions you might have.

Okamoto Takashi
Editor